

It will be a moment I will remember for the rest of my life.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO SOUTHGATE'S VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I congratulate the members of the city of Southgate's Volunteer Fire Department. This year marks the department's centennial anniversary.

This year the city of Southgate's Volunteer Fire Department is celebrating 100 years of service to the Northern Kentucky area. Southgate is my hometown, and I know and appreciate the great lengths that the fire department goes to in order to keep its citizens safe. I want to honor every volunteer who, on a daily basis, risks his or her life to faithfully serve their neighbors.

Again, I congratulate the city of Southgate's Volunteer Fire Department on reaching their centennial milestone. I know that the volunteers' efforts are an inspiration to others in Kentucky and throughout the Nation.●

##### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PINEY WOODS SCHOOL

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to congratulate the Piney Woods School in Piney Woods, MS on their 100th anniversary. The Piney Woods School was founded in 1909 by Dr. Laurence C. Jones to educate the head, heart, and hands of young people. This transformative educational model was first exhibited by teaching the children of poor sharecroppers to read. Today, the school serves as a home, and offers educational opportunities to students from 23 States and 7 foreign countries.

The Piney Woods School is one of only four historically African-American boarding schools left in the United States. Diligently preparing their students for institutions of higher learning, Piney Woods propels 98 percent of its graduates on to attend some of the best colleges and universities in the country. The school has been featured on "60 Minutes" and "U.S. News and World Report" for their commitment to educate our disadvantaged youth.

The Piney Woods School has also made a commitment to service and leadership in their community, State, and country. The school was the first high school in the Nation to incorporate an Americorps program into its curriculum. Each of the 50 members in the senior class at Piney Woods School serves in the role of a quarter-time Americorps volunteer. In this capacity, they are actively involved in providing service in disaster areas, building playgrounds in inner cities, creating after-school programs for youth in rural American communities, and providing online tutorial services for students.

I congratulate the Piney Woods School on 100 great years and commend

them on their educational successes and commitment to service. I am proud that the Piney Woods School is in my home State of Mississippi, and I wish them the best in the future.●

##### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACT

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the ACT organization, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, this year. As many of our colleagues know, ACT is an independent, nonprofit group based in Iowa City that provides an array of testing, assessment, and research services in the areas of education and workforce development.

ACT was launched in 1959 as the American College Testing Program by a University of Iowa professor of education and colleagues from 16 Midwestern States. Their goal was to help college-bound students find a good match for their interests and aptitudes, and to help colleges and universities place students into appropriate freshman-level classes.

On November 7, 1959, about 75,000 students took the first ACT assessment. This year, nearly 1.5 million graduating seniors 45 percent of all high school graduates in the Nation took the ACT exam.

From its relatively humble beginnings a half century ago, ACT has grown into an enterprise with a global reach. In addition to its testing and assessment services, it has developed programs to prepare students for success in college. It has created the National Career Readiness Certificate, a tool that thousands of educators and employers nationwide use to confirm that individuals have essential core employability skills. In addition, ACT is one of several partners in a new Manufacturing Skills Certification System designed by the National Association of Manufacturers, the Nation's largest industrial trade organization.

In addition to its Iowa City headquarters, ACT has 12 field offices across the United States, as well as offices in Australia, Korea, China, Singapore, and Spain. It has a global workforce of nearly 1,500.

I salute all of the superb professionals at ACT, whose vision and hard work have built an organization respected worldwide for its innovation and excellence. And I wish them even greater success in their next half century.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE MUSCATINE HISTORY AND INDUSTRY CENTER

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the Muscatine History & Industry Center for being selected to participate in the rigorous Museum Assessment Program sponsored by the American Association of Museums.

The entire Muscatine community takes great pride in the History and Industry Center's success in showcasing

the city's past role as "pearl button capital of the world," as well as the historic contributions of three local enterprises: Bandag, a half-century-old company specializing in silver tubes, mesh venting, and tire treads; HNI Corporation, the world's second largest manufacturer of office furniture and the nation's No. 1 maker of gas- and wood-burning fireplaces; and Stanley Consultants, a global provider of engineering, environmental, and construction services.

The Muscatine History and Industry Center is a relatively small museum, but it has a very big impact. Not only does it welcome many thousands of visitors annually, it reaches out to the community with a variety of programs and activities, and hosts daily visits by school groups—from prekindergarten through high school. Students and youth groups learn by interacting with the Center's artifacts and many hands-on activities.

As the center begins participation in the Museum Assessment Program, it looks forward to an extended period of self-examination and peer review designed to improve its operations and programming, and to identify current and future challenges.

I congratulate the Muscatine History and Industry Center for taking this giant step forward in its development as a museum. And I salute all the outstanding professionals and volunteers at the center whose vision and tireless efforts have made this institution such an important part of Muscatine's cultural life.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the University Museums at Iowa State University for earning formal accreditation by the American Association of Museums, an honor that is bestowed on fewer than 10 percent of museums across the United States.

As a proud alumnus of Iowa State, I know that the university community takes great pride in its diverse collection of museums, including the three museums that together make up University Museums at Iowa State University: the Brunnier Art Museum, the Art on Campus Collection, and the Farm House Museum.

The Brunnier is dedicated to the decorative arts, including works by Grant Wood and Louis Comfort Tiffany. The Art on Campus Collection consists of more than 2,000 works of public art located all across the campus in buildings, courtyards, open spaces, and offices. The Farm House Museum is a wonderful 19th century house and a National Historic Landmark, offering visitors a window into what life was like on campus in the university's earliest days, when most faculty members lived on the college grounds.

These collections and museums make a powerful contribution to the cultural